

2025 YPN RECOGNITION AWARDS

Cause-Driven Leader: Youth Development

Purpose: To recognize YMCA professionals who have inspired and mobilized staff, volunteers, members, and community partners to strengthen communities for all.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact on youth development within their Y community. Any full-time staff member is eligible regardless of time in service.

Cause-Driven Leader: Healthy Living

Purpose: To recognize YMCA professionals who have inspired and mobilized staff, volunteers, members, and community partners to strengthen communities for all.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact on healthy living within their Y community. Any full-time staff member is eligible regardless of time in service.

Cause-Driven Leader: Social Responsibility

Purpose: To recognize YMCA professionals who have inspired and mobilized staff, volunteers, members, and community partners to strengthen communities for all.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact in social responsibility within their Y community. Any full-time staff member is eligible regardless of time in service.

Cause-Driven Leader: General

Purpose: To recognize YMCA professionals who have inspired and mobilized staff, volunteers, members, and community partners to strengthen communities for all.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact in their respective field within their Y community. Must not be working directly in the field of youth development, healthy living or social responsibility. Any full-time staff member is eligible regardless of time in service.

YPN Chapter 17 Leadership Award

Purpose: To recognize a YMCA professional who has contributed effective leadership to YPN Chapter 17 or YPN nationally. Open to current and former board members, along with peer community leads and subcommittee members.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact in their respective YPN role.

John Wanamaker Award for Outstanding New Staff (Part Time and Full Time Categories)

Purpose: To recognize a YMCA professional who has contributed exceptional work in the early years of their Y career. The award recognizes YMCA professionals who have achieved administrative or program excellence early in their YMCA career. Their achievements serve as a model for professionals beginning their YMCA work.

Criteria: The nominee is a current Y employee with less than three years of YMCA service, including all YMCA work, part-time and full-time.

YPN Innovator Award

Purpose: The award recognizes YMCA professionals who have brought new and innovative program offerings to meet the needs of their local communities. This award may recognize an individual of the association.

Criteria: The nominee must have demonstrated a significant, measurable impact in their respective field within their Y community regarding an innovative approach/ program.

YMCA Retiree & Legacy Award

Purpose: To recognize a YMCA professional who has chosen the YMCA as a lifetime career and has demonstrated excellence in their chosen field.

Criteria: The nominee must either be a current YPN member or have held YPN/AYP membership during their career. The nominee must have at least 20 years of YMCA service. The nominee must either be employed by a YMCA or have tenure in good standing.

NOMINATIONS PROCESS

Where do I submit a nomination?

<https://ypnchapter17.org>

When is the nomination period?

Nominations are online from April 15 – May 2, 2025.

What does it mean to be a nominator?

A nominator's only task is to make the chapter board and the awards selection committee aware of the nominee's achievements. Your nomination proves that you care about your fellow peers and appreciate their efforts.

Note: You may nominate more than one person for the same or different categories.

What does it mean to be a recipient?

A YPN award is considered a significant accomplishment. To receive a YPN award means you are a leader in the YMCA movement.

How to best determine a nominee:

Take a few moments, think about your YMCA, and isolate any special events, building projects, or concrete successes established through program enrollment, community impact, or financial growth. Next, ask yourself, who was critical in making this happen?

Still stuck on finding a nominee? You may also want to try and isolate the YMCA colleague who displays strong leadership, is an inspiration to others, or who goes above and beyond the call of the professional job description.

Ask yourself, who consistently displays the WOW factor?

Have a YMCA colleague in mind? Great! Now, match the qualities or credentials of the nominee to the award categories. A colleague can be chosen from any area, including Health & Well-Being, Membership, Finance, Aquatics, Child Care, Marketing, Fund Development, Property, Executive Leadership, etc. You can even nominate yourself!

Tip: When writing the nomination, concrete specifics are encouraged; include who, what, where, when, & why!

Please don't hesitate to submit a previous nominee, all nominees will be appropriately considered. Current and former YPN board members are eligible for nominations too.